

Vital Events

Kansas vital events (resident-live births, deaths, stillbirths, abortions, and occurrence-marriages and marriage dissolutions) decreased 3.0 percent from 100,498 in 1994 to 97,505 in 2003. ([Table 1](#) and [Table 24](#))

Between 1994 and 2003, some significant changes in vital events were a 30.4 percent decrease in the divorce and annulment rate and a 21.2 percent increase in the out-of-wedlock birth ratio. ([Table 1](#))

The number of out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents reached a record high in 2003 at 12,345. This represented 31.4 percent of all Kansas resident births, which is the highest proportion ever reported. ([Table 1](#))

The live birth rate in 2003 (14.4) decreased 1.7 percent from the 1994 rate of 14.6. The rate of 14.2 in 1996 was the lowest on record, dating from 1935. The death rate decreased 1.1 percent, from 9.1 in 1994 to 9.0 in 2003. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

For the first time since deaths were collected (1911), there were no maternal deaths to Kansas residents in 2003. ([Table 1](#))

Hebdomadal, perinatal, neonatal and infant death rates decreased from 1994 to 2003, with percentage decreases of 7.9, 12.1, 4.3, and 11.8, respectively. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

In 2003, the number of couples married in Kansas declined, continuing the generally downward trend that began in 1993. The marriage rate (6.9) decreased 17.9 percent from the 1994 rate of 8.4. The number of marriage dissolutions (divorces and annulments) granted in the state continued its generally downward trend. * ([Table 1](#))

Over half (9,971) of the marriages in 2003 were first marriages for both the bride and groom. ([Figure 2](#))

***Notice:** The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance for divorce certificates, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate how incomplete the reporting is. Users of divorce data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any divorce data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.